

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0226] with the following amended paragraph:

[0226] The *Listeria* dl inlB amplicon is then inserted into a pCR2.1-TOPO vector. The pCR2.1-TOPO-dl inlB plasmid DNA is digested with XhoI and KpnI and the 2123 bp fragment is gel purified. The KpnI/XhoI 2123 bp fragment is inserted into a pKSV7 vector that has been prepared by digestion with KpnI and XhoI and treatment with CIAP (pKSV7-dl inlB). {Correct?} The fidelity of dl inlB sequence in pKSV7-dl inlB is then verified. The inlB gene is deleted from desired *Listeria* strains by allelic exchange with pKSV7-dl inlB plasmid.